

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

/058 W

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R 130815Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2860

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0045

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN - LIBYAN RELATIONS

1. SPEAKING TO THE EVENING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS JANUARY 12, QADHAFI MADE A POINT OF RECALLING THAT IT WAS THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DJERBA DECLARATION OF UNITY BETWEEN LIBYA AND TUNISIA. IN THE SAME TERMS HE USED AT THE 1974 PARTY CONGRESS, HE GAVE HIS VERSION OF THE EVENTS WHICH LET UP TO THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION. THERE HAD BEEN AMPLE PREPARATIONS FOR UNITY, AND HE HAD NOT THREATENED OR PRESSURED BOURGUIBA INTO SIGNING. THE DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH FOLLOWED THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN TUNISIA WERE PROOF THAT THE TUNISIAN PEOPLE WANTED UNITY, AND THEY HAD BEEN BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED. THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT HAD CLAIMED IT HAD TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION; THE CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN AMENDED ALL RIGHT, BUT TO MAKE "HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA" PRESIDENT FOR LIFE. OFFICIALLY, FOR THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT THE DJERBA DECLARATION WAS A DEAD LETTER, QADHAFI SAID.

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" FOR HIS PART, QADHAFI WAS READY TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY

BILITY FOR HIS SIGNATURE. "THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THE
DJERBA DECLARATION WILL BE A REALITY". QADHAFI ASKED THAG
HIS COPY OF THE DECLARATION, WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S
SIGNATURE, BE PUT ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM OF TRIPOLI
CASTLE, AND THIS WAS AGREED TO BY ACCLAMATION.

3. SOME DAYS EARLIER, A TELEGRAM HAS BEEN READ TO THE
CONGRESS FROM A GROUP CALLED THE "REVOLUTIONARY UNIONIST
FORCES IN TUNISIA" ATTACKING US IMPERIALISM
AND ITS ALLIES FOR SEEKING TO MAINTAIN ARTIFICIAL
BORDERS, AND DEMANDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DJERBA
DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF THE TUNISIAN PEOPLE.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS AMPLE INDICATION THAT QADHADI'S
INTENTIONS TOWARD THE GOT ARE NOT PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY.
CARLE

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NNN

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